



Swift Overview

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Swift X-ray Telescope

Presenting results from “Broadband Observations of the naked-eye γ -ray burst GRB 080319B”, Racusin et al., to appear in *Nature* on September 11, 2008



Swift and GRBs

- Launched in 2004 – discovers 100 GRBs per year
- GRBs are enormous explosions associated with creation of black holes in the distant universe
- *Swift*. Rapid discovery and on-board followup of GRBs
- Large ground network includes robotic telescopes capable of rapid observations of GRBs within seconds to minutes of discovery
- Combination of *Swift*, other satellites, and rapid ground-based observations produced the best data set ever on the brightest GRB ever seen.

20 November 2004

